

## **BRAC IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY – April 17, 2012**

- **Ilaya Hopkins called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.** Committee and audience members introduced themselves.
- **Updates from the Montgomery County BRAC Coordinator:**
  - **Phil noted that every item discussed at the BIC meetings has loads of background material on the web site, listed under today's meeting on the "Get Involved" Page:**  
<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/brctmpl.asp?url=/Content/EXEC/brac/getinvolved.asp>
  - **Phil said that at every BIC meeting he reminds everyone that the "Get Involved" Page's chronological report of BIC meetings includes the following resource materials:**
    - **The "Tiers and Phases" of BRAC Projects based on funding is also posted on the web site. The Tiers and Phases were developed by MDOT and MCDOT with input from the BIC in October 2009, and the summary text has been revised through Sept. 19, 2011.**
      1. **Matrix developed by MDOT-MCDOT, October 2009:**  
<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/exec/brac/pdf/bracprojects-tiers-100609.pdf>
      2. **Summary of Tiers & Phases, updated Sept. 19, 2011:**  
<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/exec/brac/pdf/tiersphases-summary-revised-091911.pdf>
    - **Printable Timeline: Anticipated Construction-Related Traffic Disruptions in Bethesda (as of 2-21-12):**  
<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/exec/brac/pdf/disruptionstimeline-041111.pdf>
    - **Summary of BRAC Transportation Projects and Commuting Options**  
[http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/brctmpl.asp?url=/content/exec/brac/projects\\_glance.asp](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/brctmpl.asp?url=/content/exec/brac/projects_glance.asp)
    - **7-26-11 State Highway Administration update on the Intersections Improvement project, with the potential availability of OEA funding**  
[http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/exec/brac/pdf/mcdot-sha\\_intersectionsschedule-oea\\_fundingupdate-072611.pdf](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/exec/brac/pdf/mcdot-sha_intersectionsschedule-oea_fundingupdate-072611.pdf)

- **The BRAC Mobility Projects Matrix.** It has been updated through November 2, 2011 and reflects the multi-modal approach the County, State and other stakeholders are taking to address the transportation impacts of BRAC in Bethesda – transit improvements, pedestrian and bicycle enhancements, intersection upgrades, transportation demand management, etc.  
[http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/exec/brac/pdf/transpo\\_project\\_matrix-110211.pdf](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/exec/brac/pdf/transpo_project_matrix-110211.pdf)
- **Montgomery County BRAC is now on Twitter!** Follow us @BracMoCoMD and get all the details on our web site: [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/BRAC](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/BRAC)
- **Meeting schedule for remainder of 2012.** Phil suggested that the Committee meet again on **June 19**, at which time MCDOT hopes to give a public presentation on the MD 355 Multimodal Crossing Project. He suggested the Committee could reconvene on **September 18** and again either on **November 20 (two days before Thanksgiving) or December 18**. It was decided that the next meeting will be June 19<sup>th</sup>, at which time the Committee will decide how to proceed with its schedule. Phil said that on June 19 NIH wants to do a presentation on about the Master Plan Update, and MCDOT hopes to do a presentation on the MD 355 Crossing Project.
- **Status of the application process for Federal funding for the MD 355 Multimodal Crossing Project at the Medical Center Metro Station and the “outer phases” of the four intersections improvement projects.** Phil reported that he and MCDOT are working with OEA to complete the application for \$40 million for the Crossing Project, and that SHA is working with OEA in its four applications totaling \$48.9 million for the intersections improvements projects.
- **DOD requests new BRAC rounds for FY2013 and 2015.** Phil reported that the Department of Defense has asked Congress to authorize two additional rounds of BRAC. If approved, this could potentially impact military facilities across the country including some located in or near Montgomery County.
  - **4-4-12 Association of Defense Communities: Pentagon Sends BRAC Request to Congress**  
<http://www.defensecommunities.org/headlines/pentagon-sends-brac-request-to-congress/#>
  - **4-4-12 Dept. of Defense proposed legislation: The Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 2012**  
<http://www.defensecommunities.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/govdoc-4058383.pdf>

- **Update on BRAC actions at Bethesda sites vacated by the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency.** Phil reported on updated plans for the Intelligence Community Campus-Bethesda, and tentative plans for Joint Task Force-National Capital Medical (JTF CapMed) personnel to relocate to the former NGA “Dalecarlia” campus later this year
  - **4-5-12 Gazette.Net: Intelligence Community Campus plans fall short of tree preservation goals -- Neighbors to Bethesda campus sought less deforestation**  
<http://www.gazette.net/article/20120405/NEWS/704059723/1007/intelligence-community-campus-plans-fall-short-of-tree-preservation&template=gazette>
- **MCDOT renovation of pedestrian bridge over Old Georgetown Road near Woodmont Avenue.** Renovations and closure of the bridge by MCDOT will continue for several more months with minor off-peak disruptions in the area.
  - **4-11-12 Bethesda Patch: Old Georgetown Pedestrian Bridge To Close For Renovations -- Project expected to launch April 16**  
<http://bethesda.patch.com/articles/old-georgetown-pedestrian-bridge-to-close-for-renovations>
- **Closure of Lots 31 and 31A at Woodmont and Bethesda Avenues.** These lots closed in early April. In approximately two months, construction of a mixed-use development will cause a 20-month closure of the block of Woodmont Avenue between Bethesda and Miller Avenues.
  - **4-9-12 Bethesda Patch: Last Chance: Lots 31 and 31A Closing -- Beginning tomorrow, bid farewell to the parking lots across from Barnes and Noble.**  
<http://bethesda.patch.com/articles/last-chance-lots-31-and-31a-closing>
- **Phil reported that NIH held a Public Scoping meeting on February 28 in advance of an EIS for a Master Plan Update, and that NIH intends to give a presentation about the Master Plan at its Committee’s meeting on June 19.**
  - **3-7-12 Gazette.Net: National Institutes of Health to plan for future in Bethesda -- Laboratories to be modernized**  
<http://www.gazette.net/article/20120307/NEWS/703079588/1095/national-institutes-of-health-to-plan-for-future-in-bethesda%26template=gazette&template=gazette>

- **NIH Environmental Management System: Links to Feb 28, 2012 Scoping Meeting Presentation:** <http://nems.nih.gov/Pages/nepa.aspx>
- **Phil reported that Christopher Bishop, the SHA representative, was unable to attend tonight's meeting. Phil provided the following updates on the on the SHA Intersection Improvements Projects:**
  - **SHA has established field offices for Intersection Improvements Projects:**
    - **Rockville Pike/Cedar Lane project office:** 8218 Wisconsin Ave. #102. Phone: 301.907.7408. FAX 301.907.7409
    - **Connecticut Ave./Jones Bridge Road project office** 3726 Manor Road #2, Chevy Chase, Phone: 301-656-2435 FAX: 301-656-2356
  - **Intersection Improvements Project: Rockville Pike at Cedar Lane.**  
As has been reported over the last few weeks, utilities relocation has begun. Actual construction of the intersection upgrades will begin when the utilities work has been completed. Phil reported that SHA conducted a meeting the previous Thursday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, with residents most impacted by the utilities project. It was reported that cracks are appearing in some homes, while others are suffering from construction noise, dirt, and light during the night. Homes closest to the construction staging area are feeling the brunt of the work. SHA project officials promised to do what they could do address these problems.
    - **4-9-12 Maryland SHA: State Highway Administration Begins Nighttime Lane Closures on MD 355 near Jones Bridge Road**  
<http://sha.md.gov/pages/release.aspx?newsId=1099>
    - **3-26-12 Maryland SHA: State Highway Administration Extends Closure of Elmhirst Drive Access to MD 355 Through Late April -- Daytime Work for Additional Utility Work Expected to Be Completed in April**  
[http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/exec/brac/pdf/sha-elmhirst\\_locusthillclosure-032612.pdf](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/exec/brac/pdf/sha-elmhirst_locusthillclosure-032612.pdf)
    - **3-16-12 Montgomery County Dept. of Transportation: MD State Highway Administration to begin lane closure on Rockville Pike in Bethesda for BRAC-related utility relocation**  
[http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/apps/dot/pressrelease/PR\\_details.asp?PrID=8333](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/apps/dot/pressrelease/PR_details.asp?PrID=8333)

- **Traffic signals along Rockville Pike near Walter Reed-Bethesda.** Phil reported that State and County transportation officials have been monitoring traffic at the North Wood signal. A new SHA analysis was conducted in early March that showed the signal's impact on Rockville Pike traffic and on traffic entering and exiting the Navy's North Gate. Monitoring will continue and timing of the signal will be adjusted.
- **3-9-12 SHA Update on operations of traffic signal on Rockville Pike at North Wood Gate**  
[http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/exec/brac/pdf/sha-bic\\_northwoodsignalmonitoringupdate-030912.pdf](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/exec/brac/pdf/sha-bic_northwoodsignalmonitoringupdate-030912.pdf)
- **Naval Support Activity-Bethesda Updates:**
  - **Captain Kass reported that last month's security exercise -- Operation Solid Curtain/Citadel Shield -- was a success.** Feared traffic tie-ups did not occur because NSAB personnel and area commuters avoided the area.
  - **Captain Kass said that the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for future construction should be released in early summer, and will include updated traffic counts.** Jeff Miller repeated February's report that post-BRAC traffic does not appear to be as bad as had been forecast and that NSAB personnel have greatly increased their transit and carpool ridership. Phil reminded the Committee that the EIS includes construction of 900 new parking spaces and the Master Plan update could forecast additional growth, similar to the NIH Master Plan Update.
  - **Captain Kass gave an update on the re-use of the Dalecarlia campus that was vacated under BRAC by the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency on MacArthur Boulevard in the Glen Echo area of Bethesda.** He noted that there are two main building on the site, and that one is in greater need of rehabilitation than had been known previously. Therefore, he expects fewer than 500 personnel to be stationed there in the near future, rather than 900 as had been previously reported, and that very few of those personnel will be relocating from NSAB. He also noted that there are 258 parking spaces on site.
  - **Jeff Miller reported that an Update to the 2008 Master Plan is forthcoming and that it will include an updated Transportation Management Plan.** The Update will be available in late spring or early summer for public comment.
  - **Jeff gave an update on the Gates construction project.** Gate 4 (Grier Road) is currently closed for expansion, which should be complete by late June. When Grier re-opens, Gate 3 (Exchange Gate) will experience a partial closure through the end of the year. All five gates should be open, expanded, and fully operational by the end of the year. It is expected that more traffic will use the Jones Bridge Road Gates than in past years.

- **Jeff reported that new barrack construction will occur on the north side of the campus.** This project should not affect neighborhoods bordering the campus north side or traffic on Rockville Pike.
- **Richard Levine gave updates from the Locust Hill community, which has significant concerns about Phase 4 of the MD 355/Cedar Lane intersection improvements., and which is experiencing the brunt of the utilities relocation work that presages the initial phases of the intersection project.** Phase 4 would add a new northbound lane from Cedar Lane to a point north of Locust Hill Avenue, and could entail SHA claiming its Right-of-Way on the access road that parallels MD 355, and possibly as much as four feet of ROW adjacent to the access road. SHA has noted that the access road will remain, but might need to be shifted four feet onto the SHA ROW. Locust Hill is also concerned about the possible addition of a sidewalk at that site, which could infringe on the neighborhood and which the community believes isn't needed.
  - **Richard reported that, following last fall's community meeting with SHA, Locust Hill has formed a BRAC Transportation Committee and will challenge Phase 4 as being unjustified, unsafe, and too impactful on residences closest to the project.** The community has engaged Joseph Cutro, a professional; traffic engineer, to advise them.
  - **Richard said the community will challenge plans to include a sidewalk if Phase 4 is built.** He said a new sidewalk would encroach on property and isn't needed. Rather, the community would prefer a striped crosswalk with pedestrian signalization at an existing signalized intersection north of Locust Hill Road. This would connect to an existing sidewalk that serves larger communities on the west side of Rockville Pike.
  - **Richard reiterated the significant inconveniences caused by the current utilities construction relating to the initial phases of the Intersection Improvements Project and speculated that those phases, plus the recent addition of the Rockville Pike signal at North Wood, may successfully mitigate traffic and render Phase 4 unnecessary.**
- **Debbie Michaels noted that residents of the Glenbrook Village community have significant concerns about pedestrian safety at the intersection of Rockville Pike and Jones Bridge Road.** They met with SHA officials at the intersection and hope to see plans developed to address those concerns as the Intersection Improvements for that area move forward.
- **Ilaya Hopkins initiated a discussion about a possible change of name for the Committee.** As had been last year and this past February, the Executive Order which established the County Executive-appointed BRAC Implementation Committee expired

late last year because its expressed mission – to help identify BRAC impacts and help design mitigations -- had been achieved. Community members of the Committee saw no need to disband and agreed to continue on a voluntary basis under the auspices of the Western Montgomery Citizens Advisory Board. As was discussed in February, there was some sentiment to distinguish the appointed BIC Committee from this voluntary one. After further discussion, it was agreed that Ilaya would appoint a small group to discuss drafting a document that clearly defines the committee's goals and possibly suggest a new committee name.

- **Public Comments:**

- **Karen Kuker-Kihl and Norman Kamerow of the Promenade Apartments noted that the Committee lacks representation from multi-family dwellings, which they said have unique issues relating to transportation.** Ilaya Hopkins noted that everyone in the area shares the same basic transportation concerns and that increasing the committee's membership to expand geographic representation would make it unwieldy, noting the problems experienced by the MCPS Middle School selection committee.
- **Paul Seder asked whether the Navy's forthcoming Master Plan Update is being coordinated with NIH, which is promulgating its own Master Plan Update, or other relevant parties such as Suburban Hospital, downtown Bethesda, or State and County transportation officials.** It was noted that Master Plans go through a rigorous public process including hearings at the National Capital Planning Commission and the Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission, and that the various agencies are always consulted in the crafting of Master Plans and Transportation Management Plans.

- **The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 19, 2012, 7:30 p.m., at the BCC Regional Services Center.**

**Committee members in attendance, April 17, 2012:**

Phil Alperson, County BRAC Coordinator

Kristen Blackmon for Dave Dabney, Bethesda Urban Partnership

Lulu Gonella, Chevy Chase View

Leslie Weber for Brian Gragnolati, Suburban Hospital

Neil Greene, Maplewood Citizens Association

Ken Hartman, Director, Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center

Ilaya Hopkins, Western Montgomery Citizens Advisory Board and Chair, BRAC Implementation Committee

Ginanne Italiano, Greater Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chamber of Commerce

Ed Krauze, Bethesda Parkview Citizens Association

Richard Levine, Locust Hill Citizens Association  
Marilyn Mazuzan, Town of Oakmont  
Debbie Michaels, Glenbrook Village Homeowners Association  
Sara Morningstar, Montgomery County Office of Intergovernmental Relations  
Patrick O'Neil, Greater Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chamber of Commerce  
Ken Strickland, Chevy Chase Valley  
Richard Vogel, Stone Ridge School

**Ex-officio:**

Ken Reichard (Senator Ben Cardin)  
Joan Kleinman (Rep. Chris Van Hollen)  
Susan Buffone (Council Member Roger Berliner)  
Debbie Spielberg (Council Member Marc Elrich)  
Captain Fritz Kass, Naval Support Activity-Bethesda  
Jeff Miller, Naval Support Activity-Bethesda  
Joseph Macri, Naval Support Activity-Bethesda

**Other Attendees**

Ralph Bain, Locust Hill Citizens Association  
Bill Beddow, Glenbrook Village  
Dawn Chaikin, Locust Hill Citizens Association  
Carl Gentilcore, Locust Hill Citizens Association  
Norman & Helen Kamerow, The Promenade  
Karen Kuker-Kihl, The Promenade  
Jeanette Musil, DOD Office of Economic Adjustment  
Dale Rampell, The Promenade  
William Sadlon, NAVFAC Washington  
Bharat Sanghvi, Whitley Park  
Paul Seder, Whitley Park  
Dan Willard, Locust Hill Citizens Association  
Daniel S. Willard